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INSIDE TODAY
WORLD NEWS

HELPING HOMELESS



Britain's Home Secretary Alan Johnson seen during an informal meeting of Ministers of Justice and Home Affairs in Toledo, Spain, Thursday Jan. 21, 2010. Airport security was discussed during the meeting after a failed plot to bomb a U.S. airliner on Christmas day.

Read more on Page A6

SPORTS NEWS
ONE TEAM



In this photo released on Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2010 by South Dakota State University, South Dakota State head basketball coach Scott Nagy coaches barefoot during an NCAA college basketball game against North Dakota in Brookings, S.D., on Jan. 23, 2009.

Read more on Page A12

 Price of a barrel of petroleum
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President Barack Obama stands with Ray Cromwell, vice president of sales operations, after he was presented with a personalized football helmet during a visit to the Riddell manufacturing facility, which makes sports equipment, Friday, Jan. 22, 2010, in Elyria, Ohio.

Associated Press

Defiant Obama urges Congress to pass jobs bill

PHILIP ELLIOTT

Associated Press Writer

ELYRIA, Ohio (AP) — A combative President Barack Obama exhorted Congress Friday to pass a new job-creation bill, taking a populist appeal to America's recession-racked Rust Belt in hopes of recapturing the energy of his campaign and moving his presidency beyond this week's blows.

Obama weaved angry us-against-them rhetoric throughout the day, telling an audience that he "will never stop fighting" for an economy that works for the hard-working, not just those already well off. "This isn't about me. This is about you," Obama shouted in a rousing defense of his presidency and not-so-subtle

slaps at his critics. "I think that I win when you win. That's how I think about it."

The upset win by Republican Scott Brown in a special Massachusetts Senate election this week — a victory spurred in large part by an anti-establishment sentiment — badly stung the White House and prompted awareness that neither Obama's agenda nor the electoral prospects for fellow Democrats this November can be taken for granted. Obama said a jobs bill emerging in Congress must include tax breaks for small business hiring and for Americans trying to make their homes more energy efficient — two proposals he wasn't able to get into a bill the House passed last month.

Continued on Next Page



Vehicles on westbound Interstate 80 are seen through a light snow fall near Nyack, Calif., Friday, Jan. 22, 2010. The storms that have swept through the Sierra Nevada has nearly doubled the water content of the snow pack over the past week.

Associated Press

Storm lingers over Ariz after battering Calif

By FELICIA FONSECA and JACQUES BILLEAUD

Associated Press Writers

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. — The remnants of the biggest storm to hit Arizona in nearly two decades lingered over the state Friday after drenching California, while authorities in both states continued to tally the damage.

In Arizona, flooding swept through small towns, caused a train derailment and closed major interstates. Snow collapsed roofs in the northern part of the state. Meanwhile, searchers looked for a 6-year-old boy swept away late Thursday in a flood.

Continued on Page 5

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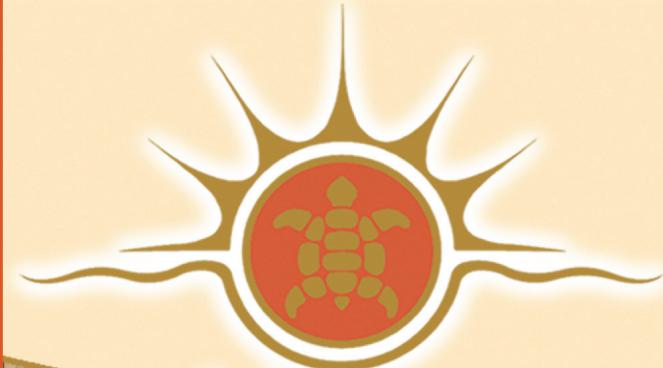
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In this Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2010 file photo, U.S. Sen.-elect Scott Brown, R-Mass., smiles as he addresses reporters during a news conference at the Park Plaza hotel in Boston

Associated Press

OBAMA JOBS BILL

Continued from Front Page

Searchers spent Friday looking for the boy, who was caught in rising waters about 70 miles north of Phoenix. Dwight

D'Evelyn, a Yavapai County sheriff's spokesman, said the boy was presumed dead.

Three others died in vehicle accidents this week — two on Interstate 40 east of Flagstaff

and one in Phoenix — as a series of storms moved through the state. At least two people were killed by trees toppled by high winds in California in recent days.

In Southern California, hundreds of evacuees were allowed to return home Friday as a week of lightning, vicious downpours and tornadoes dissipated into occasional thunderstorms. Still tens of thousands of people remained without power throughout the state. In Southern California, more than 15,000 Edison customers remained without power Friday.

Flood control channels remained swollen and swift despite the drop in rainfall. In one dramatic rescue Friday afternoon, a dog was hoisted from the Los Angeles River by helicopter after trying to scramble up the steep concrete sides for more than an hour. The storms pushed through California and into Arizona on Monday dumping more than 4 1/2 feet of snow in the Flagstaff area, 2 inches of rain in Phoenix, 3 inches of rain in Yuma and 5 inches of rain in Sedona.

The storms also drenched Las Vegas, where more rain hit this week than in all of 2009. By Friday, 1.69 inches of rain had fallen in Las Vegas. The valley ended 2009 with 1.59 inches of rain.

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The father managed to get to safety with his daughter, but the boy remained missing Friday and is presumed dead, D'Evelyn said.

In Wenden, flooding from the storm receded late Thursday but more water returned several hours later when a surge of runoff came through a nearby wash, said Lt. Glenn Gilbert, a spokesman for the La Paz County Sheriff's Office. Several busloads of people were evacuated from their homes in Wenden and taken to a high school five miles away in Salome.

"They're going to see their homes muddied up and basically destroyed," said Gregory Palma, who owns a gas station and is chief of the local volunteer fire department. "They'll just move back in and rip off their dry wall and do what they gotta do." □

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Astronauts get Internet access; tweet from space

MARCI DUNN

AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — In a high-tech first, astronauts in space finally have Internet access, and on Friday they sent a tweet directly from the heavens.

Space station resident Timothy Creamer had been working with flight controllers to establish Internet access from his orbital post ever since he

moved in last month.

"Hello Twitterverse!" he wrote as Astro(underscore)TJ. "We r now LIVE tweeting from the International Space Station -- the 1st live tweet from Space! :) More soon, send your ?s" Before, orbiting astronauts had to send Twitter updates by e-mail to Mission Control in Houston. Then controllers posted the tweets.

The International Space

Station crew can now use an on-board laptop to reach a desktop computer at Mission Control, and thereby browse the Web. This remote Internet access is possible whenever there is a solid high-speed communication link.

It's expected to provide a big morale boost.

"Long-duration astronauts, they commit to spending months away from family and friends. It's a pretty unique state of isolation," said NASA spokesman Kelly Humphries. "We expect this to enhance morale and productivity." The astronauts will be subject to the same Internet access guidelines as other on-the-job government employees — namely, no interfering with work.

Census to launch count in Alaska village

By RACHEL D'ORO

Associated Press Writer

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — The U.S. Census Bureau chief is heading to Alaska to formally launch the nation's 2010 count in a remote Inupiat Eskimo village, where residents are planning a huge reception of traditional dancing and a feast of caribou, moose and other subsistence foods.

Bureau Director Robert Groves is scheduled to count the first household in Noorvik at 1 p.m. Monday, after arriving by charter plane at the village not linked by roads to anywhere else. Villagers say the first to be counted will be Clifton Jackson, a World War II veteran and the oldest resident in the community of 650.

But first Groves and other census officials will be greeted by eagerly awaiting residents. For the visitors' sake, locals hope the weather is kinder than the brutal minus-40 temperatures already recorded this month in Noorvik, located north of the Arctic Circle near Alaska's western coast. At this time of year, there's just 5 1/2 hours of daylight in the village.

Sled dog teams driven by schoolchildren will greet the visitors and ferry them to the school, where festivities will continue into the night after the first enumeration is completed. An Inupiat fashion show, a short film on Noorvik and dancing by school children, other locals and groups from other villages are among the planned events. The school also will serve as lodging for Groves and most of the 50 visitors, who will bunk down in empty classrooms.

"We've been organizing this as a community, all planning for this together," said Noorvik Mayor Bobby Wells. "Monday is a big day."

Monday's single count will be the only one conducted by Groves, and the rest of Noorvik's population will be enumerated beginning Tuesday. Census workers and trained locals are expected to take a week to interview villagers from the same 10-question forms to be mailed to most residents March 15. Census workers also will visit 217 other rural communities, all in Alaska, in the coming weeks.

Alaskans in rural communities not linked by roads have been the first people counted since the 1990 census. The unlinked communities are the places where the process is first conducted in person by census workers. The bureau makes personal visits to nonresponding residents around the country. It's easier to get census workers to the Alaska villages before the spring thaw brings a muddy mess, making access more difficult, said Ralph Lee, director of the bureau's Seattle region, which oversees Alaska. □



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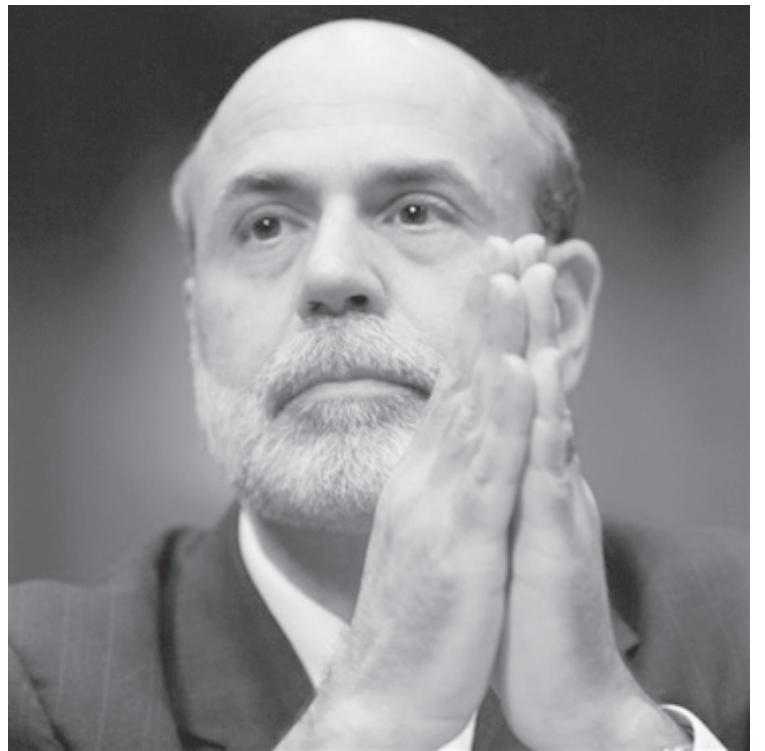
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Timeline

White House fights for Bernanke support in Senate



- In this July 22, 2009 photo, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington. Bernanke faced mounting Senate opposition for another four-year term Friday, Jan. 22, 2010, even as the White House described President Barack Obama as confident about his confirmation.

JEANNINE AVERSA

JIM KUHNHENN

Associated Press Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke faced mounting Senate opposition for another four-year term

Associated Press

Friday as the White House worked aggressively to keep his nomination alive. President Barack Obama's chief of staff, Rahm Emanuel, and Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner were on the telephone

throughout the day to crucial senators trying to shore up support, said two senior administration officials, speaking on condition of anonymity to more freely discuss behind-the-scenes activity.

Four Democrats say they will vote against Bernanke on the Senate floor. At least two senators who voted for Bernanke in the Senate Banking Committee last month are reconsidering their support.

Still, the administration's worries about the status of the nomination also lessened somewhat, despite the Democratic defections, by the knowledge that several Republicans were committed for Bernanke, one official said.

Many others had not made their inclinations known, suggesting vacillation in the Senate over Bernanke and his stewardship of Wall Street both before and after the financial crisis.

The Senate must approve the head of the Federal Reserve, the U.S. central bank, and Bernanke's first term expires Jan. 31.

A time for a vote still has not been set. Officials at one time had hoped that it would come this week.

While no one is declaring his confirmation doomed, the emergence of opposition and the shift by some to undecided illustrate just how difficult the terrain has become for Obama, especially since a Republican Senate victory in Massachusetts this week. In a boost for Bernanke, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada came out late Friday with his endorsement of the chairman. Reid's previous silence about his position on the Fed chief stoked misgivings about the nomination. "An expert

on the Great Depression, Chairman Bernanke helped steer us away from a second

one," Reid said. Still, he said Bernanke must increase his efforts to help struggling Americans.

The roster of senators arrayed against his reconfirmation grew Friday, with Democratic Sens. Barbara Boxer of California and Russ Feingold of Wisconsin announcing their opposition.

Democratic Sen. Jeff Merkley, who opposed Bernanke in the committee that sent the nomination to the full Senate, also said Friday he was opposing Bernanke's nomination. He said Bernanke not only missed signs of the smoldering crisis but "helped set the fire" of the recession.

Democrat Byron Dorgan of North Dakota announced Thursday he would oppose Bernanke on the Senate floor.

White House deputy press secretary Bill Burton, talking to reporters as Obama headed to Ohio, said the president has confidence in Bernanke's actions and believes he is the best person for the job. Burton said the White House still believes that Bernanke, 56, will get enough votes in the Senate to keep his job.

Bernanke faces a 60-vote Senate hurdle because Sen. Bernie Sanders, an independent liberal from Vermont, has placed a "hold" on the nomination. That means it will require a supermajority to bring the nomination to a vote. The actual vote on confirmation would still be a simple majority.

The political waters have been getting rougher for Bernanke, and the Senate confirmation vote may be much tighter than many had anticipated just a month ago. Counting votes against him in committee, Bernanke has at least 10 senators publicly against him. □

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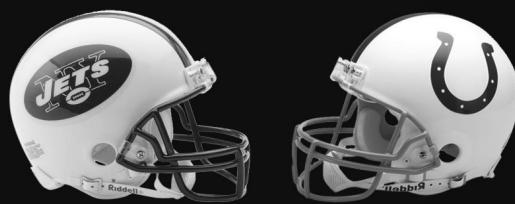
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Continued from Front Page

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UK raises its terror threat level to 'severe'



Britain's Home Secretary Alan Johnson seen during an informal meeting of Ministers of Justice and Home Affairs in Toledo, Spain, Thursday Jan. 21, 2010. Airport security was discussed during the meeting after a failed plot to bomb a U.S. airliner on Christmas day.

Associated Press

SYLVIA HUI,
Associated Press Writer

LONDON (AP) — Britain raised its terror threat alert to the second-highest level Friday, one of several recent moves the country has made to increase vigilance against international terrorists after a Christmas Day bombing attempt on a Europe-U.S. flight.

The threat level was raised from "substantial" — where it had stood since July to indicate a strong possibility of a terrorist attack — to "severe," meaning such an attack is considered highly

likely.

In making the announcement, Home Secretary Alan Johnson said the raised security level means that Britain is heightening its vigilance. But he stressed that there was no intelligence suggesting an attack is imminent.

"The highest security alert is 'critical,' and that means an attack is imminent, and we are not at that level," he said on British television.

Johnson declined to say what intelligence the change was based on, or whether the move was related to the failed Christmas bombing attempt,

when U.S. authorities say a young Nigerian named Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab tried to detonate a bomb hidden in his underwear during a flight from Amsterdam to Detroit. Abdulmutallab, who allegedly had links to extremists based in Yemen, had studied as a university student in London.

"It shouldn't be thought to be linked to Detroit, or anywhere else for that matter," Johnson said. "We never say what the intelligence is."

He said the decision to raise the threat level was made by the U.K.'s Joint Terrorism Analysis Center. He said the center kept the security threat level under constant review and made its judgments based on a range of factors, including the "intent and capabilities of international terrorist groups in the U.K. and overseas."

Friday's changes came days after Britain suspended direct flights to Yemen's capital in response to the growing threat from al-Qaida-affiliated militants based in that country. Prime Minister Gordon Brown said his government also was creating a new terrorist no-fly list, and targeting specific airline passengers for tougher security checks.

The measures followed a discussion between Brown and President Barack Obama on Tuesday. They match similar moves made by

U.S. authorities last week to enhance security at airports and on planes, as intelligence officials warned that al-Qaida's branch in Yemen was continuing to plot attacks on the United States.

The stepped-up security in the U.S. included more air marshals on flights to and within the U.S. and additional screening at airports around the world.

Brown said Britain and other nations face a sharply growing threat from al-Qaida-affiliated terrorists based in Yemen and an area of north Africa that includes nations such as Somalia, Nigeria, Sudan and Ethiopia.

Officials and analysts say Britain's new alert level could be related to the emergence of a steady stream of threat information since the thwarted Christmas Day attack. In Washington, a senior U.S. official said late Friday that the British move would have followed a specific threat, but the official would not discuss details.

However, the official said the United States did not believe the heightened alert was related to upcoming conferences the British government is hosting on Yemen and Afghanistan next week in London.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton is to attend those meetings on Wednesday and Thursday and those plans remain unchanged, the

official said. The official was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Meanwhile, a Capitol Hill official told The Associated Press the intelligence community has detected increased terrorist "chatter" so far in 2010 — that is, conversations and messages that suggest a possible elevated level of activity or planning.

But several said they know of no new specific threat that led to the British action. Instead, they noted that the British had lowered their threat level several months ago and were likely raising it to reflect the U.S. government's threat level.

The U.S. officials all spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss foreign intelligence publicly.

Britain's five-tiered alert system — which starts at "low" and passes through "moderate," "substantial," and "severe" before hitting "critical" — is similar to the U.S. system of color-coded terrorism advisories.

The British government downgraded the alert level to "substantial" in July without explaining the decision. The level last stood at "critical" in June 2007, after authorities foiled car bomb attacks on a London nightclub and a Scottish airport.

In the United States, the alert level for the aviation sector is currently at "orange," indicating a high risk of terrorist attacks. It has not been changed since 2006, after terrorist plans to blow up jetliners en route to the U.S. from Britain were discovered. The alert level for the rest of the country is at "yellow," indicating a significant risk.

Britain's decision to raise its terror threat alert came as India put airline passengers through extra security screenings and sky marshals were placed on flights. India put its airports on high alert amid reports that al-Qaida-linked militants planned to hijack a plane.



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Gates stresses common cause with Pakistan

ANNE GEARAN

AP National Security Writer

ISLAMABAD (AP) — The United States has no designs on Pakistan's nuclear weapons or "a single inch of Pakistani soil," U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates told Pakistani military officers Friday, adding that fighting terrorists along the Afghan border is in Pakistan's interest as well as Washington's.

"We have enemies in common along the border, but we also have many other interests in common," Gates said, and the Pakistani military has choices to make about its resources and focus just as the U.S. armed forces have done.

Addressing the legacy of mistrust and what he called an "organized propaganda campaign" to misrepresent U.S. intentions, Gates ticked off some of the allegations against the United States in wide circulation in Pakistan. "I fully understand why some

of you may be skeptical about the U.S. commitment to Pakistan," Gates told officers at Pakistan's National Defense University.

Many in his audience came of professional age in the 1990s, when the United States had cut off military ties to Pakistan and largely ignored the growth of the Taliban in Afghanistan. In a closed-door question-and-answer session, Gates disputed the notion that Pakistan's terrorism problems are largely the fault of the United States, Pentagon press secretary Geoff Morrell said.

In two days of meetings with Pakistan's senior civilian and military leaders and new interviews, Gates missed no chance to praise the country's year-old offensive against militants and note the military casualties it has brought.

He was exceedingly gentle in addressing what had been a central goal of the United States: Persuading Pakistan

to expand its campaign to the western border with Afghanistan, where Taliban militants use Pakistani refugees to attack U.S. forces in Afghanistan.

"The Pakistani leadership will make its own decisions" about when or whether to make that leap, Gates said during an interview with Pakistani and U.S. journalists. "That's just fine with me."

The Obama administration has taken a softer tone with Pakistan after pressure to take on the militants and break any lingering government ties with extremist groups were seen as meddling. Administration officials have also dropped references to Afghanistan and Pakistan as one theater of war, and now refrain from using the shorthand "Af-Pak" that annoyed both countries.

In his speech to military officers, Gates said the U.S. seeks no military bases in the country and has no desire



This photo provided by the U.S. Air Force shows U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates, left, talking with Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari in Islamabad, Pakistan, Thursday, Jan. 21, 2010.

Associated Press

to control Pakistan's nuclear arsenal.

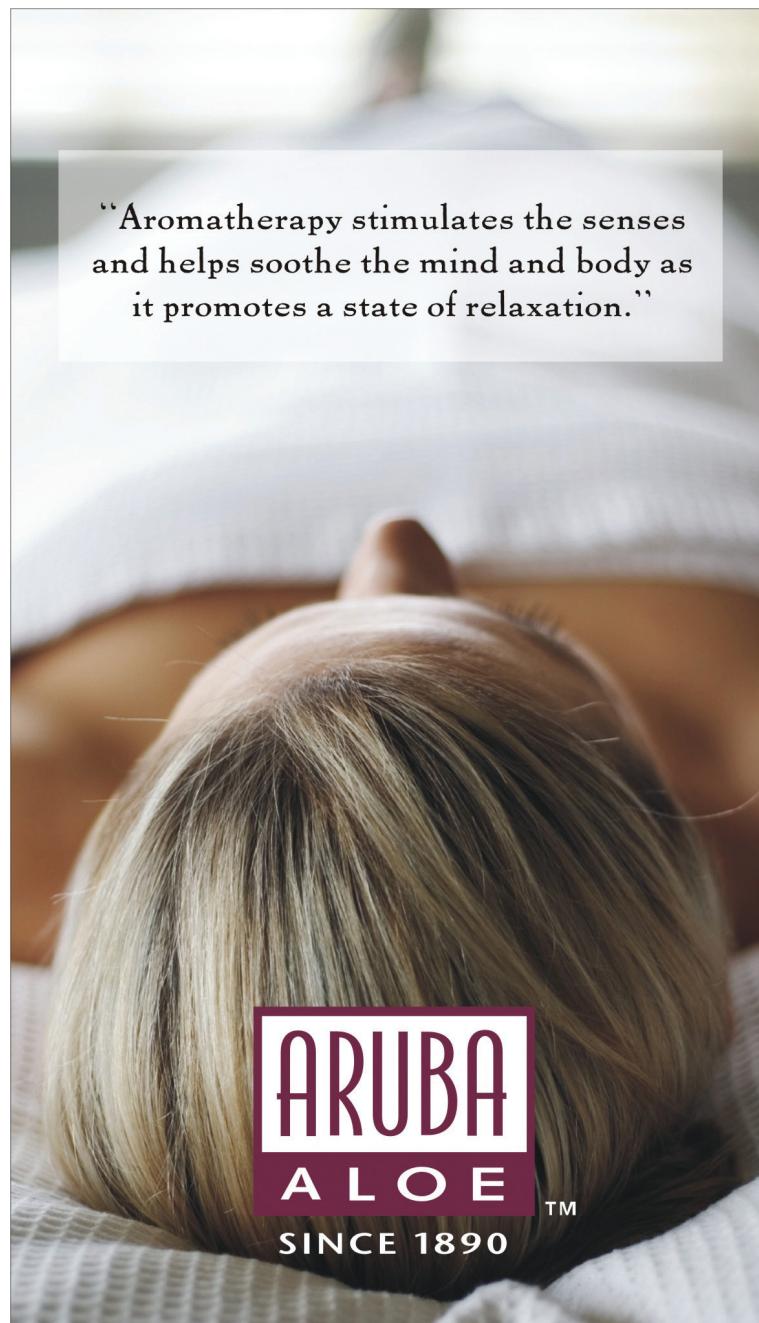
"The United States does not covet a single inch of Pakistani soil," Gates said.

The Pakistani army launched a major ground offensive against the Pakistani Taliban's main stronghold near the Afghan border in mid-October, triggering a wave of

retaliatory violence across the country that has killed more than 600 people.

Washington believes Pakistani pressure on militants staging cross-border attacks against coalition troops in Afghanistan is critical to success in Afghanistan as it sends an additional 30,000 troops to the country this year. □

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A group of men welding sticks storm a food distribution center, run by Eagle Wings Foundation of West Palm Beach, Florida, at the Carrefour neighborhood, in the outskirts of Port-au-Prince, Thursday, Jan. 21, 2010. A melee erupted at the charity's food distribution point as people broke into the storehouse, ran off with food and fought each other over the bags.

Associated Press

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Many flee Haiti capital, govt plans tent cities

ALFRED de MONTESQUIOU
MICHELLE FAUL
Associated Press Writers

PORTE-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Haitians are fleeing their quake-ravaged capital by the hundreds of thousands, aid officials said Friday, as their government promised to help nearly a half-million more move from squalid camps on curbsides and vacant lots into safer, cleaner tent cities.

Relatives said they pulled an 84-year-old woman from the wreckage of her home on Friday, 10 days after the magnitude-7.0 quake, but some teams were giving up the search and efforts focused on expanding aid for survivors. It had been more than a day since the last person was rescued live from the rubble.

Aid officials said some 200,000 people have crammed into buses, nearly swamped ferries and set out even on foot to escape the ruined capital. For those who stay, foreign engineers have started leveling land on the fringes of the city for tent cities, supposedly temporary, that are meant to house 400,000 people. The goal is to halt the spread of disease at hundreds of impromptu settlements that have no water and no place for sewage. Homeless families have erected tarps and

tents, cardboard and scrap as shelter from the sun, but they will be useless once the summer rainy season hits.

The new camps "are going to be going to places where they will have at least some adequate facilities," Fritz Longchamp, chief of staff to President René Preval, told The Associated Press on Thursday.

Doctors, meanwhile, were trying to save the life of 84-year-old Marie Carida Romain, whose relatives said they freed her Friday from the ruins of her house.

With much of Port-au-Prince in ruins, there are about 600 impromptu settlements with a population of about 1 million scattered around Haiti, said Dr. Jon Angrus, deputy director of the Pan American Health Organization.

Getting the people to safer quarters could take weeks.

"These settlements cannot be built overnight. There are standards that have to be designed by experts. There is the leveling of the land, procurement and delivery of tents, as well as water and sanitation," said Vincent Houwer, the IOM's mission chief in Haiti.

The move will be voluntary and temporary, according to Elisabeth Byrs, the spokeswoman

norm."

Thursday was the first day since the quake in which nobody was pulled alive from the ruins, U.N. mission spokesman David Wimhurst said. "We all hope that others have survived and can be found, but the more days that go by without signs of life, the dimmer these hopes will become."

Armies of foreign aid donors, instead, turned their attention to expanding their pipeline of food, water and medical care for survivors.

Computer teacher Daniel Dukenson walked across the capital and caught a bus to take his family from their collapsed home in a slum to crowd in with a cousin in the seaside town of St. Marc, a two-hour journey away.

"I'd like to go back, but it's going to take a lot of time for Port-au-Prince to get back on its feet. Two years, maybe," the 28-year-old told The Associated Press by telephone.

He said he hopes to make a living teaching English.

Still others have tried to flee abroad. The U.S. Embassy on Friday turned away hundreds of people seeking a trip out on the planes that have dropped off aid. Scores of U.S. citizens were given passes, but many were told officials were overwhelmed and they would have to return later.

for the U.N.'s Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Geneva.

"It's to help them in a first move. After, the people will decide if they want to stay," she said.

Many people are just trying to get out of the capital, often back to the farms or provincial homes of relatives.

The disaster has prompted what the Red Cross calls the greatest deployment of emergency responders in its 91-year history. Nations around the world have offered what they can: more than \$500 million from European nations, money even from impoverished Chad and Congo, and a ton of tea from Sri Lanka.

The U.N.'s World Food Program said it has distributed more than 1.4 million food rations — each with three meals, and has a fleet of trucks in bringing food and supplies.

"We are planning to flood the country with food," Myrta Kaulard, the agency's Haiti director, told the AP.

To speed that flood, the U.S. Army, Navy and Coast Guard are trying to patch up the Haitian capital's only functional industrial pier, which is key to getting in large aid shipments as well as to Haiti's long-term recovery.

Only four ships have been able to dock at the pier, where 15-inch-wide (40-centimeter-wide) cracks make it risky to let more

Haiti's government estimates the Jan. 12 quake killed 200,000 people, as reported by the European Commission. It said 250,000 people were injured and 2 million homeless in the nation of 9 million. Others offer smaller estimates.

"I wouldn't even ask my workers to risk it. I don't trust it," said Georges Jeager Junior, a businessman who plans to shift his port operations to the northern city of Cap Haitien, a 12-hour journey over bad roads from the capital. Jeager Junior said that means prices will soar.

Damage at the country's badly damaged main oil terminal has kept any tankers from landing since the quake, so gas stations on fuel trucked in from the Dominican Republic.

On the waterfront Thursday, sporadic rounds of gunfire echoed from the nearby downtown commercial area.

than one truck work at a time, and damage is so extensive that military officials say they don't know how long it will take before ships can dock and unload in large quantities.

"I wouldn't even ask my workers to risk it. I don't trust it," said Georges Jeager Junior, a businessman who plans to shift his port operations to the northern city of Cap Haitien, a 12-hour journey over bad roads from the capital. Jeager Junior said that means prices will soar.

Scavengers continued to rampage through collapsed and burning shops. U.S. troops patrolled nearby to protect aid convoys, but were leaving policing to Haitian and U.N. forces.

At a building in the Carrefour neighborhood, where the multi-faith Eagle Wings Foundation



Associated Press

of West Palm Beach, Florida, planned to distribute food, stick-wielding quake victims from a nearby tent camp stormed the stores and made off with what the charity's Rev. Robert Nelson said were 50 tons of rice, oil, dried beans and salt. Fights broke out as others stole food from the looters. □

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Stars unite to help Haiti in telethon



By NEKESA MUMBI MOODY,

AP Music Writer Nekesa

NEW YORK — Since Haiti suffered the devastating earthquake that killed more than 200,000 people, the entertainment world has

responded with an outpouring of charity, from million dollar donations to songs designed to raise money for relief.

On Friday night, those efforts will become collective as the biggest celebrities from music, film, sports and even

politics join together in an international, multi-network telethon, "Hope for Haiti Now: A Global Benefit for Earthquake Relief." It will gather even more money to help the Caribbean nation, which was already

impoverished before being struck by a massive earthquake on Jan. 12.

"It's a big world out there, and we all have a lot of responsibility to help out people who can't help themselves," said George Clooney, who helped put together the telethon and will host its Los Angeles portion, in an interview with MTV. The network led the organization of the event.

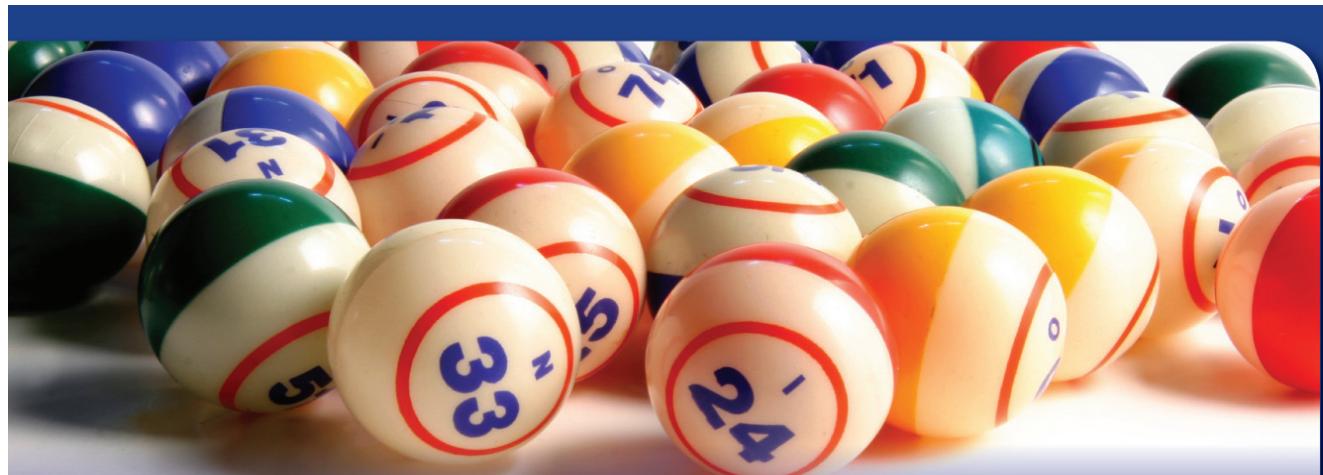
The two-hour show will be broadcast from New York, London, Los Angeles and Haiti, and include musical performances by a variety of superstars, including Beyoncé, Madonna, Bruce Springsteen, Taylor Swift, U2's Bono and the Edge, Coldplay, Keith Urban, Stevie Wonder and more. Musician Wyclef Jean, a Haitian native, is also among the performers and will lead the New York broadcast. CNN's Anderson Cooper will

add reports from Haiti, while Rihanna, Beyoncé, Jay-Z and other stars will be featured from London.

The celebrity lineup included former President Bill Clinton, Jennifer Aniston, Ellen DeGeneres, Brad Pitt, Halle Berry, Muhammad Ali, Clint Eastwood and Reese Witherspoon.

Leonardo DiCaprio is also featured; on Thursday, he joined the list of previous celebrities donors with a \$1 million gift to The Clinton Bush Haiti Fund, one of several organizations that will benefit from the telethon.

People can start donating even before the telethon at a newly established Web site, and also through text or telephone. Viewers can also purchase performances from the evening on Saturday by way of iTunes for 99 cents, with those proceeds going to relief aid as well. □



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BUSINESS

Aruba TODAY

Stocks sink again on Obama's pushback on banks

By STEPHEN BERNARD
and TIM PARADIS,

AP Business Writers

NEW YORK — The stock market suffered its worst setback in more than 10 months as investors rejected President Barack Obama's plans to restrict big banks and earnings reports that just weren't good enough.

The Dow Jones industrial average had its fourth big drop in five trading days Friday, sliding 217 points. Over the past three days, the Dow lost 552 points, or 5.2 percent, and over the past five days, it fell 537 points, after gaining 115 points on Tuesday.

It was the worst showing for the market since it began its recovery last March. The Dow lost 4.1 percent this week, its worst week since it hit a 12-

year low in March.

All the major indicators fell more than 2 percent Friday. Investors are finding uncertainty and bad news wherever they look. Even before Obama announced his plan on Thursday, they were selling stocks on disappointing earnings and concerns that a possible slowdown in China's economy might spread. The mood in the market was dark enough that upbeat earnings Friday from General Electric Co. and McDonald's Corp. weren't enough to sway investors.

The problem with earnings reports is that they're not meeting investors' high expectations. Tech stocks were among the big losers Friday after Google Inc.'s fourth-quarter revenue didn't

meet forecasts, and after a Citigroup analyst lowered his rating on seven chip makers. The market is particularly sensitive to tech companies, since they are seen as indicators that the economy is returning to health — or possibly backsliding. But any part of any company's earnings report has the potential to upset the market.

"We expect (earnings) to be better," said Brett D'Arcy, chief investment officer at CBIZ Wealth Management Group in San Diego. "People are being more particular."

In some respects, stocks' big plunge isn't a surprise. Many analysts have been predicting a correction, which technically is a drop of 10 percent from a recent market high, since before the start of



the year. They have warned that investors were expecting too much from companies this early in an economic recovery.

Meanwhile, John Brady, a senior vice president of global interest rates at MF Global, said concerns surrounding Obama's plan and China's efforts to tame its economy have investors cutting their exposure to risk.

Obama spooked the market Thursday after asking Congress for limits on how large big banks can be and to end some of the risky trading large financial companies have used in recent quarters to boost their profits. It's not clear what will come of the proposed changes but investors are selling anyway.

"It appears to be a move to put some shackles on risk-takers," Mitch Schlesinger, managing partner at FBB Capital Partners in Bethesda, Md., said of the new proposals.

Obama's push for tighter regulations comes at the same time China is moving to cool its economy with measures such as reining in lending and stepping up regulatory oversight of that country's banks.

The Dow fell 216.90, or 2.1 percent, to 10,172.98. The Dow's three-day loss was its worst since March. The last time the Dow logged five straight triple-digit point swings was December 2008.

The Standard & Poor's 500

index fell 24.72, or 2.2 percent, to 1,091.76. The index is down 5.1 percent in three days, its worst drop since March 2009. Friday's drops were the worst for the Dow and the S&P 500 index since Oct. 30.

The Nasdaq composite index fell 60.41, or 2.7 percent, to 2,205.29, reflecting a pullback in technology stocks in response to Google's earnings, and also an analysts' downgrade of chip makers.

For the week, the Dow lost 4.1 percent, the S&P 500 index slid 3.9 percent, and the Nasdaq lost 3.6 percent.

There is more uncertainty for the markets next week, and not just because more earnings reports will arrive. The Federal Reserve holds its first meeting on interest rates of 2010. No one expects the central bank to boost rates but investors will be looking for the Fed's take on the economy.

Investors are also waiting to see whether the Senate will confirm the reappointment of Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke. Some lawmakers are holding Bernanke responsible for the economy's lingering problems.

There are signs the big moves in the market will continue. The Chicago Board Options Exchange's Volatility Index jumped 52.5 percent for the week. An increase in the VIX, which is known as the market's fear gauge, is a sign that investors predict more gyrations in stocks. □

Rep. Frank: Abolish Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac

By ALAN ZIBEL,
AP Real Estate Writer

WASHINGTON — A top lawmaker on Capitol Hill is calling for the elimination of mortgage finance companies Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and the establishment of a new system to provide money for U.S. home loans.

Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., the chairman of the House Financial Services Committee, said Friday he supports replacing the two companies entirely.

"I believe this committee will be recommending abolishing Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac in their current form and coming up with a whole new system of housing finance," Frank said at a hearing on executive compensation issues. "That's the approach, rather than the piecemeal one." His comments show how much the financial crisis has upended the relationship between lawmakers and the two companies. Frank was long one of the staunchest supporters of Washington-based Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, based in McLean, Va.

The two companies, which have been run by the government since they almost collapsed in September 2008, have required \$111 billion in federal aid to stay afloat. Late last year the Obama administration pledged to cover unlimited losses through 2012 for both companies, lifting an earlier cap of \$400 billion.

Regulators announced last month the CEOs of Fannie and Freddie could get paid as much as \$6 million for 2009. That has outraged Republican lawmakers on Capitol Hill.

"We are paying these people bonuses to lose tens of billions of dollars," said Rep. Jeb Hensarling, R-Texas at Friday's hearing. "What people do with their money is their business. What they do with the taxpayer money is our business."

Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac provide vital cash to the mortgage industry by purchasing home loans from lenders and selling them to investors. Together, they own or guarantee almost 31 million home loans worth about \$5.5 trillion, or about half of all mortgages in the U.S.

So far, the Obama administration has been quiet about its plans for the two companies. In an interview Thursday on PBS, Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner said the Obama administration will "propose a set of detailed reforms beginning this year" for Fannie and Freddie. But he said legislation will have to wait until next year "because it's just a complicated thing to get right."

Shares of both companies sank on the news. Fannie Mae closed at 99 cents, down 7.5 percent. Shares of Freddie Mac closed at \$1.17, down 10.7 percent, but added a penny in after-hours trading. □

SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

Australian Open

Clijsters out, Henin advances

DENNIS PASSA

AP Sports Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — The much-anticipated potential quarterfinal between the back-from-retirement Belgians dissolved in 52 minutes Friday at the Australian Open.

That's the time it took for Kim Clijsters to lose, in embarrassing fashion, her third-round match at the season's first Grand Slam tournament.

The 6-0, 6-1 defeat to Nadia Petrova was the worst of Clijsters' career and as one-sided as the score indicated. Clijsters lost the first set in just 18 minutes and won only five points in her first seven games.

Justine Henin, another Belgian who was inspired to return to the tour following a 20-month absence after Clijsters won the U.S. Open, held up her end of the bargain. With some difficulty, she defeated Alisa Kleybanova 3-6, 6-4, 6-2.

"I just didn't give her a chance to get into the match," Petrova said. "I like this kind of Grand Slam feeling."

Clijsters hadn't been on the receiving end of such a lopsided scoreline since losing the French Open final to Henin 6-0, 6-4 in 2003.

"I was completely off. I think tennis-wise, I didn't feel the ball at all," Clijsters said. "On the other hand, she was good, but I made all the mistakes and she really didn't have to do much."

"It's something you don't want to happen too often. It sucks that it has to happen at this stage of this tournament."

Defending champion Rafael Nadal advanced to the fourth round Friday along with Andy Murray, U.S. Open champion Juan Martin del Potro, Andy Roddick and Fernando Gonzalez.

Nadal, who beat Roger



Kim Clijsters of Belgium reacts as she plays Nadia Petrova of Russia during their Women's singles third round match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Friday Jan. 22, 2010. Justine Henin of Belgium waves to the crowd after beating Russia's Alisa Kleybanova during their Women's singles third round match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Friday Jan. 22, 2010.

Associated Press

Federer in last year's final, held off Philipp Kohlschreiber of Germany 6-4, 6-2, 2-6, 7-5 in a night match.

In the fourth round, Nadal will play Ivo Karlovic, who beat Ivan Ljubicic 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, 7-6 (7). The 6-foot-10 Karlovic holds the tour record for the most aces in a match with 78. "He's a really difficult opponent because the match is decided in a few points," Nadal said. "So the thing is to concentrate with my serve all the time and try to convert the small opportunities that I can have on the return."

The fifth-seeded Murray, bidding to win his first Grand Slam singles title, beat Florent Serra of France 7-5, 6-1, 6-4 and is one victory away from a potential quarterfinal with Nadal.

First, Murray will have to beat



American John Isner, who won at Auckland last week for his first ATP title. The 6-foot-9 Isner continued his strong play by defeating 12th-seeded Gael Monfils of France 6-1, 4-6, 7-6 (4), 7-6 (5).

"I was just kind of riding a wave of momentum, and I still am," Isner said. "Hopefully, I can keep it going."

No. 4 Del Potro beat Florian Mayer of Germany 6-3, 0-6, 6-4, 7-5 and No. 7 Roddick advanced 6-7 (4), 6-4, 6-4, 7-6 (3) over Feliciano Lopez of Spain.

Next up for del Potro is Marin Cilic, who stopped Stanislas Wawrinka 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-3. Gonzalez, the 2007 finalist, beat Evgeny Korolev of Kazakhstan 6-7 (5), 6-3, 1-6, 6-3, 6-4. Roddick and Gonzalez will play each other in the fourth round. □



Big 4 U.S. player unions, others rise to Haiti's aid



In this photo released on Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2010, by South Dakota State University, South Dakota State head basketball coach Scott Nagy sits barefoot with his daughter, Naika, at the school in Brookings, S.D., on Dec. 6, 2008. The earthquake in Haiti has personal resonance for Nagy, and he plans to coach barefoot this weekend to raise money and awareness for the deadly disaster. Nagy's adopted daughter is from Petionville, near the quake's epicenter, and he hasn't been able to contact the girl's birth mother since the disaster last Tuesday. Nagy said 6-year-old Naika is aware of what happened, and he struggled to explain the situation to her.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Players unions for the NFL, NBA, NHL and Major League Baseball have started a campaign to support the Clinton Bush Haiti Fund's relief efforts in the earthquake-stricken country.

The "One Team 4 Haiti" project will urge supporters to text, donating \$10 for U.S. fans and \$5 for Canadian ones. All the text funds will go to relief efforts, the campaign said on Friday.

"Since the earthquake hit their country, the Haitian people, including friends and family

of mine, have been through so much devastation," said Georges Laraque, an NHLPA member who recently played for the Montreal Canadiens. "NHLPA members, together with the members of the NFLPA, MLBPA and the NBPA, hope that we can make a meaningful contribution and encourage sports fans across North America to join us in helping Haiti."

Other sports got into the act on Friday, too. Boxing promoter Top Rank said it will donate one dollar from every ticket it sells through the end of the year to Haitian earthquake relief. The company will begin with Saturday's featherweight doubleheader at Madison Square Garden, where about 5,000 fans are expected to see Juan Manuel Lopez challenge Steven Luevano for the WBO title. Yuriorkis Gamboa defends his WBA title against Rogers Mtagwa in the co-main event.

"Starting with this fight and every fight through the rest of the year," Top Rank chief Bob Arum said. "For a fight like this, it might be a few thousand, but for March 13 it could be 40 or 50 thousand."

Manny Pacquiao makes his return to the ring on March 13 against Joshua Clottey at the new Cowboys Stadium in Dallas. The facility is being configured for 40,000 fans, but it could conceivably fit upward of 70,000 depending on demand.

Arum said he wasn't sure how many tickets will be sold for the rest of the year because there was no accurate way to predict how many shows will be put together, who will headline the shows and where they will take place. □

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NBA Roundup

Cavaliers beat Lakers for a second time

CLEVELAND (AP) — The Cleveland Cavaliers showed their Christmas Day win over the Los Angeles Lakers was no gift as they repeated the feat with a 93-87 win over their NBA title rivals on Thursday. LeBron James scored 37 points, including 12 straight in the closing stages, as the Cavs won despite playing their first game without injured Mo Williams.

J.J. Hickson grabbed a career-high 14 rebounds and Anderson Varejao made three free throws in the final 20 seconds as Cleveland swept the season series between the league's top two teams. That could give the Cavs home-court advantage if they meet the Lakers in June's NBA finals.

A lot can happen between now and then, but the win gave Cleveland confidence it might be able to thrive despite losing Williams, their All-Star point guard who will miss at least one month with a shoulder sprain.

Los Angeles' Kobe Bryant finished with 31 points but was only 4-of-15 in the second half as the Lakers lost the opener of an eight-game road trip. Pau Gasol scored 13 for Los Angeles.

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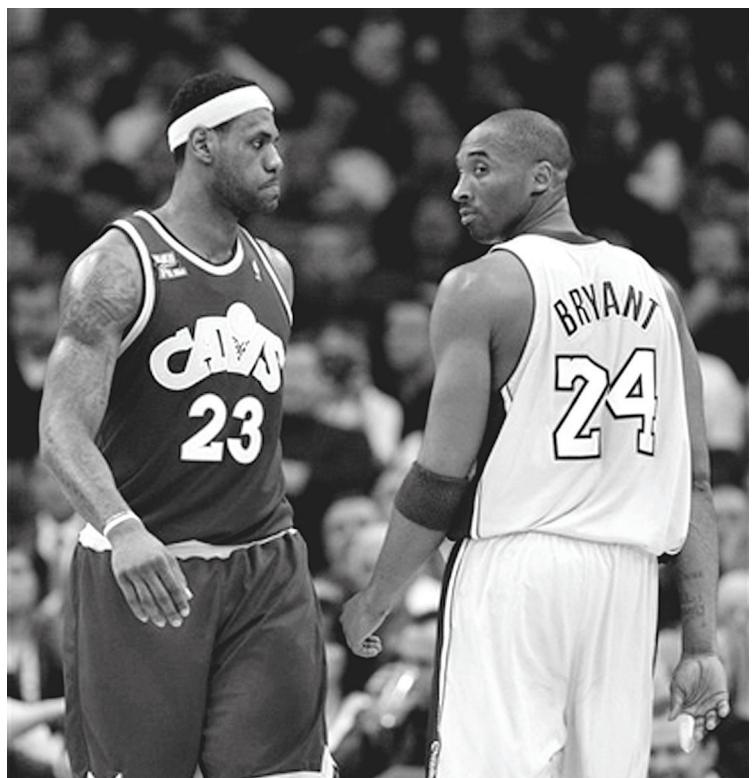
Nuggets 105, Clippers 85
In Denver, the hosts made it a season-high five straight wins with a comfortable victory over Los Angeles.

Chauncey Billups scored 13 of his 20 points in the third quarter to break open a tight game, while Carmelo Anthony — selected as a starter for the All-Star game in fan balloting announced earlier Thursday — had 28 points and 10 rebounds.

It was the Nuggets' sixth straight home win overall, and against the Clippers.

Craig Smith's 21 points led the Clippers, who fell to 0-12 on the road when scoring less than 100 points.

Los Angeles, opening a season-long eight-game road trip, played without guards Eric Gordon (sprained left big toe) and Sebastian Telfair (groin).



Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James (23) and Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant glance at each other in the second quarter in an NBA basketball game Thursday, Jan. 21, 2010, in Cleveland.

Associated Press

Despite that, the visitors took six of the last seven points in the second quarter. □

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NHL Roundup

Capitals fight back to beat Penguins 6-3



Pittsburgh Penguins' Sidney Crosby (87) pokes the puck away from Washington Capitals' Alexander Ovechkin (8), of Russia, in the first period of an NHL hockey game in Pittsburgh, Thursday, Jan. 21, 2010.

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The in-form Washington Capitals scored the final four goals to beat the Pittsburgh Penguins

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6-3 on Thursday in the first game this season between two of the NHL's elite teams.

Alex Ovechkin scored twice, Tomas Fleischmann scored the go-ahead goal early in the third period and set up Nicklas Backstrom's breakaway goal less than a minute later for Washington, which won its fifth in a row.

Eric Fehr and Mike Knuble also scored for the Capitals as Washington came back from deficits of 1-0 and 3-2.

Pittsburgh's goals came from Sidney Crosby, Nick Johnson in his first NHL game, and Kris Letang.

In Calgary, Alberta, Chicago built its lead in the Central Division to a giant 13 points with a win at Calgary.

Ben Eager scored the go-ahead goal at 5:52 of the third period, and Antti Niemi made 19 saves for Chicago.

Patrick Kane and Duncan Keith also scored for the Blackhawks.

Jamie Lundmark scored for Calgary, who have lost six straight.

Sharks 3, Ducks 1

In San Jose, California, San Jose beat playoff nemesis Anaheim for the fifth straight time this season to maintain its Western Conference lead.

Marc-Edouard Vlasic and Rob Blake scored rare goals in the second period, while Patrick Marleau assisted on both and added an empty-netter for his NHL-leading 35th of the season.

The Sharks have won four straight to remain two points ahead of Chicago for the most in the NHL.

Matt Beleskey scored for Anaheim.

In Los Angeles, the hosts extended their charmed run in shootouts, this time beating Buffalo.

Ryan Smyth scored the tying goal midway through the third period, and Dustin Brown had the winner in the shootout. The Kings have won their past six shootouts, all at home.

Brad Richardson and Sean O'Donnell also scored for Los Angeles in regulation.

Buffalo's goals came from

Craig Rivet, Clarke MacArthur and Thomas Vanek.

Coyotes 4, Predators 2

In Glendale, Arizona, Scottie Upshall scored three goals in the third period to lift Phoenix over Nashville.

Ilya Bryzgalov made 41 saves for Phoenix, while Matthew Lombardi had a goal and an assist as the Coyotes moved two points ahead of Nashville for fourth place in the Western Conference.

Patric Hornqvist and Martin Erat scored for the Predators.

Canucks 4, Stars 3

In Vancouver, Alex Burrows tied it late in the second period, and Christian Ehrhoff put Vancouver ahead 5 minutes into the third as the hosts edged Dallas.

Mason Raymond and Kyle Wellwood also scored to help the Canucks win their third straight and move into a tie with Colorado atop the Northwest Division.

Trevor Daley, Toby Peterson and Loui Eriksson scored for Dallas, winless on the road since Dec. 11. □

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NASCAR to relax in effort to energize series

JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

CONCORD, North Carolina (AP) — NASCAR is relaxing some of its rules this season, and encouraging drivers to show more aggression and emotion, in large part to answer a growing fan sentiment that the series had gone stale.

"There's an age old saying in NASCAR that 'If you ain't rubbing, you ain't racing,'" NASCAR president Mike Helton said on Thursday. "I think that's what the NASCAR fan, the NASCAR stakeholders all bought into, and all expect."

The first change will be evident when the season opens next month at Daytona International Speedway, where restrictions on bump-drafting will be lifted and horsepower will be increased by the use of the largest restrictor plate since 1989.

NASCAR had been slowly tightening its tolerance on

bumping at Daytona and Talladega — the two biggest and fastest tracks in the series, where the horsepower-sapping restrictor plates are used to control speeds — and it graduated into an outright ban issued the morning of the October race at Talladega. The edict sucked the drama out of what's typically one of the most exciting races of the year, and was the final straw for many stock car fans who had grown tired of watered-down racing.

Even some drivers publicly complained, criticism that is usually frowned upon in NASCAR.

"Let us RACE," Denny Hamlin tweeted after the Talladega drivers meeting, later adding, "We signed up to drive our cars. Not be told how to."

He's getting his wish.

"We will put it back in the hands of drivers, and we will say 'Boys, have at it and have a good time,'" vice president of

competition Robin Pemberton said on Thursday.

The yellow out-of-bounds line that circles the bottom of those two tracks will remain, and Pemberton said the majority of drivers did not want that removed. Another change will be an eventual switch from the rear wing to a spoiler on the back of the car, a design change that should both positively affect downforce and the aesthetic look that race fans prefer. Also on tap is an organizational restructuring.

The most prominent shuffle is the promotion of longtime director John Darby into an oversight position, and NASCAR is actively looking for his replacement in a role that is effectively the top cop of the garage.

Darby's successor could be in for a busy year, particularly if drivers answer NASCAR chairman Brian France's call "to mix it up a little bit differently" going forward.



The new spoiler for the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series race cars is shown during a news conference as part of the NASCAR Sprint Cup Media Tour in Concord, N.C., Thursday, Jan. 21, 2010.

Associated Press

As NASCAR exploded over the 1990s past its small Southern roots into a billion-dollar, corporate-fueled series, its participants seemed to morph into robotic sponsor shills too frightened to make waves. NASCAR wasn't immune, either, and started policing on-track aggression and off-track emotion. Intentional on-track retaliation was met with immediate punishment, while transgressions such as shoving a competitor or cursing in a television interview were met with monetary fines and/or points deductions. Fans were incensed that the rough and tumble series they once loved had been molded into boring, follow-the-leader racing, and their favorite drivers had become too vanilla. □

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SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

Favre, Manning, Brees — and Sanchez?



By BARRY WILNER

AP Football Writer

NEW ORLEANS — Brett Favre, Peyton Manning, Drew Brees — and Mark Sanchez? Yep, the rookie from Southern Cal is keeping some heady company. He's gotten a whole lot further than some of the best quarterbacks in NFL history did in their first seasons, too.

The fifth overall pick in last year's draft is part of the NFL's final four, playing for a spot in the Super Bowl just like the game's career passing leader, the league's only four-time MVP, and the sport's most accurate passer.

Sure could be overwhelming. "This feels right," Sanchez said confidently. "It feels good. It feels the way you dream it would feel just growing up. You get to go play at Indy again for an AFC championship your rookie year, that's unbelievable."

Maybe not. A rookie quarterback has gotten to the AFC title game in three of the last six years. The other two, Pittsburgh's Ben Roethlisberger and Baltimore's Joe Flacco, fell short of the Super Bowl.

Now Sanchez gets his chance.

"I think it's interesting that, you know, a rookie quarterback last year, Joe Flacco, AFC championship game," said New Orleans' Brees, who chuckles and changes the subject when asked about his

In this Jan. 3, 2010 file photo, Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning, above, throws during an NFL football game against the Buffalo Bills in Orchard Park, N.Y. Manning has been selected as The Associated Press NFL Most Valuable Player of the Year. New York Jets quarterback Mark Sanchez, center, walks off the field following the Jets' 17-14 win over the San Diego Chargers in an NFL divisional playoff football game Sunday, Jan. 17, 2010 in San Diego. The Jets won 17-14. Minnesota Vikings' Brett Favre (4), above right, celebrates after throwing a 47-yard touchdown pass to Sidney Rice during the first half of an NFL divisional playoff football game against the Dallas Cowboys Sunday, Jan. 17, 2010, in Minneapolis, and New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees, below right, celebrates after his two-yard pass to Marques Colston during the second quarter of an NFL football divisional playoff game in New Orleans, Saturday, Jan. 16, 2010.

Associated Press

first pro season. "A rookie quarterback this year, Mark Sanchez, AFC championship. I guess Roethlisberger, when he was a rookie, they went to an AFC championship. So there have been a bunch of rookie quarterbacks here over the last five or six years."

The theory that QBs fresh out of college should sit and watch died a while ago. Maybe it began to disappear with Manning, who never has missed a start since being the top selection in 1998.

Favre barely saw the field with Atlanta in 1991, throwing five

passes (two were intercepted) before being traded to Green Bay. Brees came along 10 years later and had only one start for San Diego as a rookie, perhaps because the Chargers had been so burned by using Manning contemporary Ryan Leaf early on they were wary of going with a youngster again.

Now, it's no big deal for the new kid in town to line up behind center from the outset. Or, in the last half-dozen seasons, to play deep into January.

"Every guy wants to be a part

of the Super Bowl," said the 40-year-old Favre, who got there in his sixth and seventh season, going 1-1, but has not returned. "As you get older, you appreciate it more. Especially since you've been there, you know how difficult it is to get back. I don't care how good you are. I keep using Pittsburgh as an example, and the Giants a couple of years ago. You never know. Seize the moment."

The Jets have done a lot of seizing recently, winning seven of eight, including four in a row, two in the playoffs on the road — about as difficult a challenge as a rookie quarterback could face. Sanchez met the hurdles thanks as much to the Jets' strengths around him as to what he has achieved with his arm and legs.

Sanchez is 24 for 38 for 282 yards in wins at Cincinnati and San Diego.

Those would be one-game numbers for Favre, Manning or Brees. □

Gebrselassie wins Dubai Marathon

BARBARA SURK

Associated Press Writer

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Haile Gebrselassie won the Dubai Marathon Friday, falling three minutes short of his own world record. The 36-year-old Ethiopian champion finished the 42.2-kilometer (26.2-mile) race in 2 hours, 6 minutes and 9 seconds ahead of compatriots Chala Dechase Beyene (2:06:33) and Eshetu Wendimu Tsige (2:06:46).

The women's event was also dominated by Ethiopians, with Mamitu Daska Molisa winning the race at 2:24:18 ahead of compatriot Aberu Kebede Shewave (2:24:26). Helena Loshanvong Kirop of Kenya was third (2:24:54) and ahead of Ethiopian defending champion Bezunesh Bekele Sertsu (2:26:05).

Gebrselassie set the world record in the 2008 Berlin Marathon at 2:03:59.

On Friday, he complained of back problems and not sleeping well before the run along Dubai's Persian Gulf coast. But, he said, he was content he won.

"It's wonderful," Gebrselassie said. "I wasn't feeling very good this morning because I had a back problem but I'm very happy to win the race."

He said woke up with a back pain and went to the doctor to check it out. "I think I slept in a different position, on my stomach, and that caused the problem," Gebrselassie said, and added that overall, the run was "fantastic."

"This was very special and I'm very happy," Gebrselassie said. "The weather was a bit warm, but overall not so bad."

Gebrselassie made the halfway turn at 1:02:51 and was pushed in the second half of the race by the pacemakers □

LOCAL

Aruba TODAY

LOCAL

On Top Of The News

Email: news@arubatoday.com

Saturday, January 23, 2010

Ancient island art explained at the Westin Art Gallery

By Rosalie Klein

Aruba Today

PALM BEACH- The Westin Art Gallery in Palm Beach will soon close its latest show, "GUADIRIKIRI" by noted island artist Stan Kuiperi. The collection is inspired by the ancient pictographs created by Aruba's original inhabitants thousands of years ago, and which continue to fascinate archeologists, historians and artists to this day.

To assist in understanding this portion of Aruba's cultural history, and more importantly, the need to preserve it, a lecture by Stan and Harold Kelly, an archeologist on staff of Aruba National Archeological Museum, (MANA) was presented by Westin Gallery Curator Jan van der Straten on Thursday, January 21.

Historians have documented 300 pictographs, but believe there are more likely up to 350 in 22 sites around Aruba, as well as 2 petroglyphs. Pictographs are paintings; petroglyphs are actually carved into the rocks or cave walls. Since the medium used was based on natural elements, most pictographs are painted in shades of red, using ferrous oxide as a colorant; found in the clay of Aruba. Early paintings demonstrate that the artists mixed the red clay with water and used brushes formed from tree branches to apply; later, darker colors indicate mixing it with plant resins to prevent the colors from running, and that it was applied by finger painting. Though most pictographs are vertical, or found on overhangs, there is no sign of dripping or running, indicating their mastery of the medium.

Additionally, Aruba is unique in the Caribbean regarding these ancient works of art. During a conference two years ago on the subject, Mr. Kelly discovered that no other island has found the

complex, dichromatic (2 color) cave paintings found on Aruba, which appear to originate with the indigenous population of the centrally located Orinoco Region of Venezuela, far to the south. Also of interest is that to date, there have been no archeological finds of similar art between the two regions, causing historians to speculate upon the migration of a distance of over 400 miles to a desert island by crossing the great sea, and what may have prompted it.

"Up until the time of these dichromatic works, we see simpler objects, often symbolic," explained Harold Kelly, "these 2 color paintings are real art.

Continued on Page B8



Maikel Ras is Manager of the Quarter at the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa



PALM BEACH -- Maikel Ras, Director of IT, won Manager of the Quarter at the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa. Michael has been working at the resort since February 4th, 1994, and was nominated by executive assistant manager Lourdes Geerman.

"Maikel," she said in her eloquent winning nomination speech "is a quiet, humble gentleman, who never brags about himself; he has a wonderful attitude towards his colleagues which is both caring and respectful. He gets things fixed fast, no fuss, no drama, earning him the undisputed title of the "Yes I Can, Guru" for Aruba and San Martin, as he is in charge of the IT needs of the Radisson in St.

Continued on Page B3

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Aruba says hopes for Valero tax deal OK soon



By Erwin Seba

HOUSTON - Aruba's government hopes the settlement of a tax dispute with Valero Energy Corp over its idled refinery on the island will win approval from parliament "as soon as possible," a government spokesman said on Friday. The long-running dispute has been seen as a roadblock to Valero's sale of the

refinery, idled in July, which had provided a third of the Caribbean nation's gross domestic product.

The government of Prime Minister Mike Eman has not yet requested parliamentary approval of the agreement with Valero, said government spokesman Lisander Besselink in a telephone interview.

Valero revealed on Thursday a deal with Eman's government

to settle the dispute.

With January nearly finished, Besselink said it will probably be sometime in February before the parliament can consider the deal.

"As soon as the parliament approves the agreement, we get the amount Valero has agreed to pay," he said.

Valero said on Thursday it will pay about \$130 million once parliament grants approval. The company has also agreed to keep workers on the refinery's payroll until June 1.

That part of the agreement will provide time for Valero to arrange a sale of the 235,000 barrel per day (bpd) refinery, Besselink said.

PetroChina, which recently took over a lease for 5 million barrels of crude oil terminal space in the Caribbean, has been said to be the leading contender for the refinery. The Chinese energy giant has said the company would not consider buying the refinery before the tax dispute was resolved.

Besselink declined to discuss how soon an agreement might be reached with any potential buyer. He referred questions about talks with potential suitors to Valero.

Valero has refused to identify any would-be buyers and has only said discussions for a sale are underway.

Additionally, as part of the



deal, Valero will pay at least \$10 million per year in the following years to the Aruban government.

The refinery, which produces intermediate feedstocks that are made into finished motor fuels at other refineries, was purchased by Valero in 2004 for \$465 million from El Paso Corp. It came with a six-year exemption from certain taxes.

The government of Nelson Oduber adopted a new tax on the refinery in 2007, at a time when refiners were reaping record profits. U.S. state and local governments took similar steps to raise taxes on refineries during the same time period.

Since 2007 Valero has claimed the new tax violated the existing exemption.

Aruban voters ousted Oduber in September in favor of Eman, who promised a favorable resolution to the tax dispute with Valero, the island's largest employer.

Valero idled the Aruba

refinery in July and called the shutdown indefinite in August, but has kept employees on the payroll.

Independent refiner Valero has been hit hard in the past two years, first by skyrocketing supply costs as crude oil prices hit record highs in 2008 and then when the deepening recession crushed demand in 2009.

In the third quarter of 2009, Valero said it had set aside \$140 million to put toward an eventual settlement. The tax bill was estimated to exceed \$200 million. The tax was equal to 1 percent of the refinery's exports and 3 percent of on-island sales.

At one time, the refinery was thought to have a pricetag between \$1.5 billion and \$2 billion. Refinery brokers have said the plant will need billions more in investments so it can produce finished products. Valero has invested \$500 million in upgrades since 2004. □



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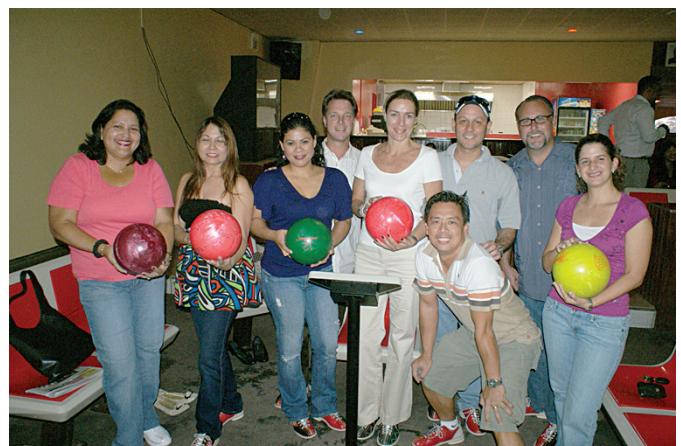
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Maikel Ras is Manager of the Quarter at the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa



Also nominated as Manager of the Quarter, Rufo Ruiz, who takes his graveyard shift duties at the hotel very seriously, following up during daytime and solving all issues arising at the resort after-hours. His contagious energy says Raquel Lesire who nominated Rufo is contagious.

Also nominated as Manager of the Quarter, Chef Maarten Smeets, who according to Francisca Van Esta is a great asset to the resort, a dedicated hard-worker who delivers great tasting and wonderfully looking dishes.

Pictured here the award ceremony at Eagle Bowling, where the crew of department heads and managers enjoyed a couple of entertaining rounds over snacks and cocktails. □

Continued from Page B1

Martin, as well. Maikel great helped the UltimateBet Poker Tournament, and

generally helps out at all departments, not job too big, no job too small," Lourdes added.



Tourist falls ill and dies in Oranjestad yesterday

ORANJESTAD — "Yesterday, Friday, January 22, 2010, at around 3 o' clock in the afternoon, a tourist known to us as "J.M." of approximately 60 years of age who was visiting the island on a Caribbean Cruise Line suddenly fell sick at Senor Frogs. The tourist in question was with family members and friends and was making use of the water slide inside of the restaurant. 911 was immediately called and paramedics came and started giving

him medical treatment. He was transported to the emergency room but he sadly passed away. Omar Licon, general manager of Senor Frogs, expressed his sincere words of condolences to the family and in return coordinated the family with a hotel room on the island until body of the deceased can be returned to the States. Management and staff would like to express their deepest condolences to the family members and friends of the deceased." □

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30th Edition of St Maarten Heineken Regatta March 4 to 7 2010



Owners and participants have been filling in their entry forms and so far the numbers look positive for the next St. Maarten Heineken Regatta, organizers reported in December. The event takes place March 4 to 7 2010 and will include the pre-event Budget Marine Match Racing Cup on March 2 as well as the GILL Commodores Cup on March 4th. Organizers are pleased with the commitments made thus far, online as well as verbal.

George David's 90-foot Reichel/Pugh-designed Rambler, in its first appearance at this race, will bring an exciting mix to the 30th edition of this event, listing what some may call the stars of sailing from around the world as the crew. With a long

list of wins including the 2007 Nordbank Transatlantic Race, 2007 Middle Sea Race, 2008 Buenos Aires to Rio Race as well as setting the course record in the 2009 NYYC Queens Cup, Rambler is sure to set the bar for others who race against her.

Rambler will be skippered by the owner George David joined by Ken Read, Vice President of North Sails North America, two-time winner of the United States Rolex Yachtsman of the year, and skipper of the Puma Racing Team il Mostro for the 2008-2009 Volvo Ocean Race; and Jerry Kirby who has raced with Pirate of the Caribbean and was bowman of the Puma il Mostro as well as a two-time veteran of the Volvo Ocean Race. With twenty three crew listed to participate, organizers

are pleased to see some of the top racers visit St. Maarten. In addition, 80 charter boats from both Sunsail and Moorings have been confirmed, and it looks as if the bareboat fleet will maintain its large numbers for another year. In 2008, the event hosted a record 125 Bareboats while that number dropped slightly in 2009 to 105. The charter boat fleet is the largest of this event as well as the largest of all the Caribbean regattas and organizers work closely with the charter companies, travel planners and individuals to assure that fair racing and competitive sailing is accomplished.

Organizer Heather Tackling reports, "With technology being one of our main sources of contact to the sailors around the world, the regatta office is working with Anton Von de Koppel and Quest Media to bring our island, the Yacht Club, and the event to the world by means of Visual information pieces. We will be broadcasting on YouTube and the regatta site as well as Facebook and Twitter, a series of four to five video clips addressing certain topics about the island. The first one is out and on YouTube and mainly describes the Yacht



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Dutch Antilles go to polls

The Dutch Antilles is choosing a new parliament – perhaps for the last time

Father Ramiro Richards calls them the five “immoral laws” the Netherlands wants to introduce in Bonaire: “gay marriage, abortion, euthanasia, legalised drugs and legalised prostitution”. And that is not all. “The arrival of large numbers of European Dutch has led to moral decay amongst the island’s populace,” the pastor told NRC Handelsblad recently. Even his church is no longer safe. He slipped a key into the heavy locks guarding the doors. He had recently been the victim of a couple of break-ins. “Bonaire has changed,” he said, by way of welcome. Apart from preaching in his Pentecostal church Baranka di Restorashon, Richards gives voice to the discontent common amongst Bonaire’s population regarding their future status as a municipality of the Netherlands, in three daily television broadcasts.

The last Antillean government

This discontent has become a pressing political issue, as the Dutch Antilles – apart from Aruba – went to the polls to elect new representatives on Friday. Bonaire send three delegates to the 22-seat Antillean parliament. The new parliamentarians might not be enjoying their jobs for long, though. Currently, the Antilles enjoy special status as a separate country within the Dutch realm, but, if everything goes according to plan, Bonaire and some other islands will be absorbed into the Netherlands proper

on October 10 this year. The parliament will then be dissolved, seven months after its inauguration.

Bonaire is key to the dismantling of the Dutch Antilles. If the pro-Dutch party Union Patriotiko Boneriano (UPB) loses the majority of Bonaire’s seats it currently controls, it will become increasingly difficult to form a government coalition willing to accept Dutch conditions for the dismantling of the Antilles.

In the area surrounding father Richard’s church, the popular neighbourhood of Nikiboko, red banners supporting the Partido Demokrátiko Boneriano (PDB) hang side by side with green UPB flags. The proposed constitutional reforms have created a rift through Bonaire society. The UPB wants to proceed along the lines of the current agreement it drew up with the Netherlands, but the PDB is looking to establish a compact of free association, which will leave Bonaire with more autonomy.

‘Gay people exist here’

In 2004, close to 60 percent of Bonaire’s population opted for closer ties with the Netherlands in a referendum on constitutional reform, but many Bonaireans fear that their new constitutional status will soon become a burden. The introduction of gay marriage is encountering a lot of resistance. “We don’t deny gay people exist here, but they are not looking to get married



Saba, the smallest of the five Caribbean islands that make up the Dutch Antilles.

Photo AP

anywhere on Bonaire,” father Richards said. The Dutch government, not unaware of the forthcoming crucial elections, is paying heed to the Bonaireans’ feelings. Speaking in the Dutch parliament last Monday, deputy minister of home affairs Ank Bijleveld said that now would not be the time to force civil marriage for people of the same sex upon the islanders.

Many in Bonaire fear that the Dutch population may soon become dominant, a fear fed by the constant influx of European Dutch. A segment of Bonaire’s population, less than 13,000 souls, feels threatened by the Dutch officials, entrepreneurs, holiday home owners and pensioners. “The Dutch have money, brand new homes, and expensive cars. It is a lifestyle new to the island, lived by those who will be in charge here soon,” father Richards said.

At the youth centre, Young Bonaire, an audience, consisting mostly of European Dutch, listened to VVD politician Henk Kamp, currently the highest representative of the Dutch government in Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba.

‘This is my island’

A Bonaire woman waved a flyer around with pictures of pro-Dutch UPB members. “Why did you negotiate with the corrupt people,” she insisted fiercely. “Because you elected them, Dushi,” a European Dutch man replied from the back of the room, using a word drawn from the local creole tongue meaning ‘honey’. The woman became livid. “My name isn’t Dushi. I was born here. This is my island,” she said. Outside, Bonaire’s youngsters hung around clad in red PDB shirts. “Bonaire”, PDB-leader Jopie Abraham said, “has

opted for direct ties with the Dutch, not for integration into the Netherlands. Why would the Dutch get to decide on laws governing opening hours for shops that apply here too?” Since June 2009, the PDB leader has been a part of the island’s governing coalition. The local coalition, which will be unaffected by the Antillean elections, has discontinued negotiations with the Dutch regarding constitutional reform until the referendum in March. “I’ll be honest with you,” said the former minister of Defence Henk Kamp, “that was a hard blow for us.” In late December the Dutch government stopped transferring money to the island. Renovations to the airport, hospital, police stations and school buildings have since been put on hold. The Netherlands fears that a Bonairean “no” to constitutional reform will delay the process by at least two years. □

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PG-13	AVATAR 3D	daily: 1:15	4:30	7:45	late show: 11:00

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		6:00	8:30	late show: 11:00	NEW
PG-13	NINE	daily: 1:00	3:30		
PG-13	SHERLOCK HOLMES	daily: 1:00	5:30	8:30	
PG	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS "THE SQUEAKQUEL"	daily: 12:00	4:00	6:00	
G	THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG	daily: 12:00	4:30	late show: 2:15	
PG-13	IT'S COMPLICATED	daily: 1:00	6:45	9:15	
R	THE BOOK OF ELI	daily: 12:30	6:00	8:45	
PG-13	AVATAR 3D	daily: 1:30	4:45	8:00	late show: 11:15
R	ARMORED	daily: 1:30	8:00	10:00	late show: 12:00

Matinee: sat - mon | Late show: fri & sat

MOOMBA -- Getting in shape after the holidays is a breeze when you play Beach Tennis. This fun sport is hot on the island, getting hotter every moment. The two new courts at MooMba Beach have become a dire necessity as the two existing courts have proven to be too few for the growing demand. Next week the first players will inaugurate the two spectacular courts.

With the first Beach Tennis Ranking event coming up on Eagle Beach on the last Sunday of the month, it is high time to dust off your paddle racquet and start practising. Beach Tennis pro and world-ranked Beach Tennis player Bertrand

Coulet can teach you a trick or two.

Starting January 23 Bertrand will be taking on kids under 10; the group is taught at MooMba Beach from 11 to noon. An a.m. Beach Tennis drill gets everyone going on Eagle Beach on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8

to 9. For more information about Bertrand Coulet's classes, you can call 568-0344. Registration for the upcoming Beach Tennis Ranking event at Eagle Beach should be done via www.arubabeachtennis.com or by calling Jochem or Sjoerd at 583-7074/592-6421.□



The Promenade Restaurant

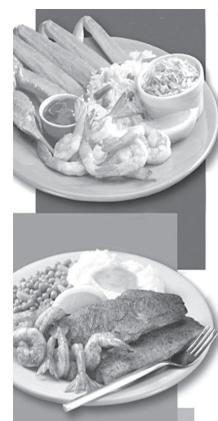
L.G. Smith Blvd. 160 (near the low rise Hotels)

Family owned with an European and Local touch
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"Daily Appetizer Night"

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L.G. Smith Blvd. 160 (Traffic Ligths by Divi Divi Tamarijn Hotel)

Fishes & More showcases the best seafood entrees

Ask about the Early Bird Menu from 4 PM to 6:30 PM



Fishes & More specialize in freshest fish and seafood on the island, and at the same time please the non-fish lovers as well. All the dishes are prepared a la minute by an internationally experienced kitchen team, which gives the twist to the fabulous dishes. Influences from all over

the world are found back on the menu and they are already well known for the daily changing specials. If you have a large party, or if there is anything you feel like in particular, Fishes & More can always arrange to have your dinner cooked just for you, as they work

only with fresh and honest products! Enjoy live entertainment Ideally located in front every night at 8PM, and of the Occidental Resort even after dinner the perfect (Former Allegro), they are night out continues, as you visited both by individuals and families alike, as they have a super kids menu, so they can enjoy their dinner as much as you

will yours! can shop till you drop since the shops on our friendly

square are open until eleven. See what its like to experience real fresh dining joy with a twist!

Open from 4 pm until midnight

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For rewards log on www.texasdebrazil.com

PALM BEACH – The health and calorie conscious among us need fear steakhouses no more. Whether it's a low-carb, low-fat, or even vegetarian diet you follow, Texas de Brazil Churrascaria fits into just about every dieter's menu plan.

Low carb eaters will have all their expectations surpassed with a tempting carnivorous selection of umpteen cuts of sizzling beef, pork, lamb, sausage, and poultry. The meats are prepared in the healthiest style of cooking—slow roasting—where much of the fat drips off in the roasting process, so those looking for a lower fat option to sautéing, pan frying, or deep frying will also be able to indulge.

The Brazilian-style steakhouse also offers up a garden full of healthy eats on a lavish 40-item seasonal salad bar, giving dieters plenty to choose from to accompany the

slow-roasted meats. A selection of fresh lettuces and vegetables may be standard for most salad bars, but **Texas de Brazil**'s version goes a gourmet twist further, treating the palate to additional items like marinated portabella mushrooms, sweet roasted bell peppers, hearts of palm, sundried tomatoes, imported cheeses—including fresh buffalo mozzarella—sushi, homemade soups, and much more.

The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar. Of course, for those looking to splurge while on vacation, **Texas de Brazil** will gladly serve their garlic mashed potatoes, traditional fried plantains, and their world-famous parmesan cheese bread as part of the meal.

Restaurant
open daily

Monday - Sat 6 pm - 11
Sunday 5 pm - 11 pm

For more information or to
make reservations, please
call 586-4686. □



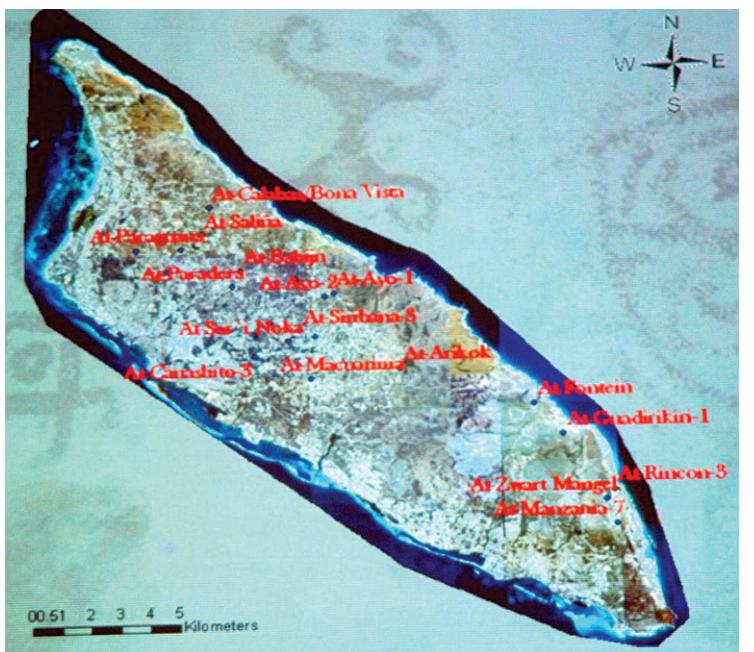
Ancient island art explained at the Westin Art Gallery



Continued from Page B1

They depict a scene we can readily recognize, such as a man working with tools under what appears to be a large sun, or one of the birds we find on the island. Zoomorphic subjects, based on marine animals or birds are common, but many of the early paintings are abstract objects, which I believe had significance to the artist, but it is really impossible for us to interpret precisely today."

"Many factors must be taken into consideration when contemplating the meaning of these symbols," he continued. "Fully understanding the way the pre-ceramic Amerindians lived, what they worshipped, and what they were trying to accomplish with that particular glyph in that particular place is complicated. We speculate, and I personally agree, most of these paintings were done



Nigel Matthew 1995

by Shaman, the spiritual leader of the community. It is believed, based on the practices of still existing tribes in Latin America, the Shaman would ingest hallucinogenic substances and then enter a trance state to communicate or gain access to the spirit world. We think the paintings assisted in this ritual."

Aruba's ancient pictographs have inspired a number of well-known local artists such as Padu Lampe, Nigel Matthew and, present that evening, Lio Booij, Vincent Donata and Anthony Croes. Stan Kuiperi presented a retrospect of art in Aruba of the last sixty years, and the works produced relating to Aruba's prehistoric culture and their art. He related how until recently, the importance of these works in preserving island history has

been ignored. An important site in Seroe Canashito was lost because the area was bulldozed for the stone; another important section of a cave in Paradera was literally transplanted as a decoration to one of the resorts without concern for protecting the art it contained. The resort's sprinkler system that watered the lawns soon wore away priceless cave paintings on the rock.

Now, a generation of young island archeologists such as Mr. Kelly and the head of the museum's archeology department, Raymond Dijkhoff, are campaigning to have these sites listed with

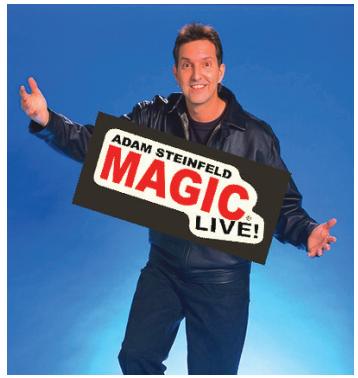
UNESCO as World Heritage Sites. Many of the paintings have had protective fencing placed around them to prevent their further defacement, and MANA seeks to educate island youth regarding their importance and preservation.

"That is one of my intentions with this collection," commented Stan Kuiperi, "to explore these designs because of their artistic merit, but to also focus intention on the importance of our cultural heritage. Every rock painting we lose is gone forever. They have been there for a thousand years or more, but they will be lost if we don't start taking care of them, immediately." □



SUPERB NEW ILLUSIONS

MAGIC Live!. Comedy On the Beach 3 shows in 1



Magician Adam Steinfeld laughs it up, on stage, at the Magic Live!® theater, showroom. ASTONISHING! EXCITING! MYSTIFYING! FUN! ...enjoy a hilarious evening of Magic, fun for entire family.

PALM BEACH - STEINFELD presents WOW factor! at the MAGIC LIVE!® ...theater-of-illusions show , Westin - Aruba opened on December 25 at 9PM. MAGIC Live!® theater-of-illusions show, starring Adam Steinfeld... is an amazing night of Magic, Grand Illusions and Comedy, superb magic at it's

highest level, a lot of fun from start to finish, laugh-out-loud funny, intelligent, sophisticated, unconventional grand illusions, that will keep you asking, 'how the heck did he do that?' Perfect for the holiday season, have you ever dreamed of disappearing and reappearing in an instant? Master illusionist, comedy magician, Adam Steinfeld opened DEC 25, MagicLive show at the WESTIN, Aruba, nightly 9PM, every night, doors open at 8:30PM, and tickets may be purchased at the door, in the intimate

Magic Live! theater-of-illusions theater, every seat is close to the stage. In his new illusion he calls; "PRESENT", a tall girl steps into a tiny box, elevated in-the-air, the box spins 360 degrees,

then the sections are taken away, one by one, until the girl vanishes completely... right before your eyes!

Then as if that isn't enough to run to your local optometrist, he re-assembles the box for the magicbabe to make a triumphant reappearance. It's an all new original illusion not seen anywhere else in the world. I went back to see the show during rehearsals, and still couldn't figure out the secret.

Tourists and local fans will remember Steinfeld for past performances, in Aruba,

IF YOU GO

What: Magic Live! theater-of-illusions show
 Where: Westin - Aruba, palm beach (high-rise area)
 Who: starring, comedy illusionist, Adam Steinfeld
 Time: 9:00 pm, theater opens at 8:30pm
 Tickets: at the door
 Price: \$19.95 under 15, \$29.5 adults
 Group Sales: 561-1090
 website: www.MagicLive.com
 Blog: www.MagicOnTheBeach.com



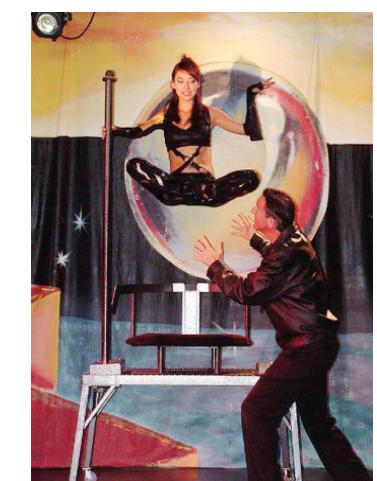
and on network television, Mr. Steinfeld recently authored "the Houdini Conspiracy", aka "Houdini Lives!", a collaborated work with new england mystery writer

Al Blanchard, he believes will be turned into a feature film.

The intimate Magic Live!® theater-of-illusions showroom is located just off the lobby of the Westin- Aruba in high-rise area, j.e. irausquin boulevard 77. Palm Beach, Aruba. Magic Live!® BOX

OFFICE tickets are located in main lobby. Purchase TICKETS AT THE DOOR.

SEE MAGIC, comedy and "seemingly impossible feats, get ready to marvel at the all new, MAGIC! theater-of-illusions show starring ADAM STEINFELD, opens DECEMBER, 25, nightly 9PM at the WESTIN, aruba. MAGIC LIVE! theater-of-illusions show...at the WESTIN-Aruba, 9pm nightly, starring AdamSteinfeld. □



Catch your own dinner with Driftwood! Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "From the pier to your plate!"

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"fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on

the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35 ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50 ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on a daily basis from 8am to

Catch your own dinner

12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm. A charter includes: captain, mate, all fishing equipment, bait, sodas and bottled water. On a full day charter sandwiches and snacks are also included. You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to www.driftwoodaruba.com.

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 \$760- full day
 Rates per boat
 Max. 6 people



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Driftwood Restaurant

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Stop talking nonsense, Dutch PM tells Chávez

By Vanessa Mock

The Dutch Prime Minister has hit back at the Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez over accusations that the Netherlands is helping to stage a military strike against his country.

During an exclusive television interview with Radio Netherlands Worldwide, Jan Peter Balkenende dismissed as pure fiction Mr Chávez's allegations that US war planes

were being deployed in the neighbouring Dutch Antilles as part of a planned attack.

"The President really shouldn't use these words. He's talking nonsense," Mr Balkenende told RNW. "We know what these planes are for, they are being used to combat drug trafficking."

Mr Chávez made his allegations during a recent television interview, saying: "We accuse the American and the Dutch governments of provoking Venezuela and planning aggression." Mr Chávez showed a photograph of a US P3 warplane as proof, but Mr Balkenende said that the picture had been "taken from Wikipedia" and was dated from 2002. "So please, don't use old pictures, Mr Chávez. If there are serious complaints, let's talk about them properly."

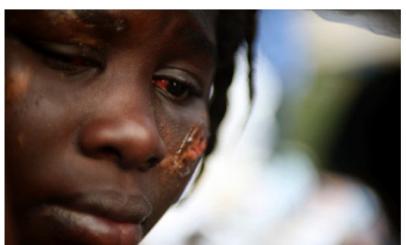
US must 'get out of Haiti eventually' The Dutch leader also addressed criticism over humanitarian efforts in Haiti, and over the overwhelming presence of the US military there. Nearly 20,000 soldiers will be deployed by the end of the week, amid concerns that Washington is trying to tighten its grip on the disaster-struck island, the main transit route for drugs into the US.

"We need the Americans now, it's inevitable," he said. "But in the longer run, the UN must take over responsibility."

Fundraising

On Thursday, Mr Balkenende took part in a massive national fundraising effort for Haiti that raised over 83 million euros. Responding to fears that this money could later be used to prop up a corrupt state, Mr Balkenende vowed that the Dutch authorities would control spending of the funds. "We need proof of how this money is spent and we will demand it," he said.

In this fourth interview with RNW, Mr Balkenende also touched on the current political storm over an inquiry into the outbreak of the Iraq war, but he dismissed suggestions that his government could collapse over the issue. □



SOS Children's Villages International needs your help for Haïti now

This Saturday, January 23rd, we will serve at Flying Fishbone and Screaming Eagle Restaurant a special selected 3 course menu as fund raising aid for the victims of the earthquakes in Haïti - 50% of all raised funds will be donated to Red Cross Aruba / SOS Children's Villages International.

FLYING FISHBONE MENU

smoked salmon
horseradish mayonnaise and balsamic vinegar

or

lobster bisque
rich and tasty lobster bisque finished with a touch of heavy cream and lobster chunks

or

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alaskan salmon
salmon fillet with mashed potatoes and creamy saffron sauce

or

chef's special
½ sirloin steak & shrimp skewer

or

poulet de bresse
french chicken breast grilled with morel sauce and mashed potatoes

fudge brownies
with vanilla sauce and chocolate chip ice cream

or

warm dutch apple pie
whipped cream and vanilla ice cream

US\$ 55 or Afl. 99 per person including 2 glasses of wine of your choice or beer, unlimited soft drinks



Flying Fishbone Restaurant, Savaneta 344
call 584 2506 for reservations
open daily starting 5 pm

SCREAMING EAGLE MENU

spicy peruvian ceviche
fresh white fish, orange wedges and ginger syrup

or

carpaccio of black angus tenderloin
truffle mayonnaise, pine nuts and parmesan cheese

or

lobster bisque
rich & creamy with lobster chunks

alaskan halibut
truffle risotto, spinach and champagne sauce

or

smoked u.s.d.a. skirt steak
provencal marinated and grilled served with crispy polenta, ratatouille and truffle sauce

or

surf and turf
u.s.d.a. black angus tenderloin and tiger shrimps
with béarnaise sauce, green asparagus and mashed potatoes

chocolate brownie
candied orange zestes and dulce de leche ice cream

or

white chocolate cheesecake



Screaming Eagle Restaurant, Eagle Beach
J.E. Irausquin Blvd. 228 - call 587 8021 for reservations
open daily starting 6 pm

According to Radio Havana Cuba

Haiti: New U.S. Military Base?



The U.S. government is making full opportunistic use of the tragedy caused by the earthquake in Haiti. The white house forced the local government to agree to fill their country with U.S.

Marines and troops of the 82nd Airborne Division, in an operation which has nothing to do with humanitarian assistance but with military occupation.

Thus, the streets of Port au

Temporary permit holders can't live on BES islands

THE HAGUE--Persons in St. Maarten and Curaçao who have been granted a temporary residency permit under the Brooks Tower Accord (BTA) will not be able to live on the BES islands Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba.

That much is clear from a piece of draft legislation that regulates admittance and expulsion of persons on the BES islands, abbreviated to WTU BES, which Dutch Justice Minister Ernst Hirsch Ballin and State Secretary of Kingdom Relations Ank Bijleveld-Schouten sent to the Dutch Parliament's Second Chamber on Wednesday.

The WTU BES proposal only deals with foreigners and non-Dutch nationals, and was drafted because the Dutch Government considered it too complicated to implement the Dutch Foreigners' Law. That is why it was decided to take the current Antillean law on admittance and expulsion LTU as the basis for WTU BES.

WTU BES takes into account the magnetising effect of the BES islands on the region when the islands become part of the Netherlands and their social facilities and health care are improved. Hirsch Ballin and Bijleveld-Schouten said that migrants would make use of the fact that the islands had become part of the Dutch Constellation, possibly with the intention to travel on to Europe. "At this moment, the number of illegal immigrants on the BES islands is small. If their numbers were to sharply increase, a scenario would become effective whereby the Dutch Immigration and Naturalisation Service IND would get involved to provide assistance. For the public entities, it is of great importance that the entry of immigrants remains manageable. An influx of immigrants could seriously destabilise society," stated Hirsch Ballin and Bijleveld-Schouten. □

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Prince, full of rubble and with a bewildered population with infinite needs, are scenes of a large deployment of U.S. soldiers armed to the teeth more common in a military conflict than in a humanitarian catastrophe. The gardens of the ruined National Palace, seat of the Haitian government and symbol of sovereignty, suffered the ignominy of being used as a landing strip for helicopters which, instead of bringing aid to the thousands of survivors crowded around the palace, have started to occupy the center of the city, after taking control of the airport.

Some people must have noticed the repetition of the events of 1914 when, with the pretext of protecting U.S. citizens allegedly threatened by a popular uprising, the U.S. troops landed in Port-au-Prince after fierce bombings and remained there for 19 years.

The middle-aged and youngest people should remember the two most recent invasions in 1994 and 2004. In both cases the United States employed the argument that the internal instability of the country was threatening international security.

This time Washington used the earthquake as a pretext to complete its strategic control in the Caribbean.

The U.S. military forces in Haiti are already comprised of 13,000 troops. They are supported by the Carl Vinson aircraft carrier, the Underwood and Normandy warships, with the capacity of launching cruise missiles, as well as the Bataan helicopter carrier. Of course, they are not part of the U.N. contingent or belong to the Mission for the Stabilization in Haiti, the MINUSTAH.

The United States with the Haiti under its control would be closing a strategic square of the entire Caribbean Sea. This square would be formed at both western ends by Haiti, and the illegal naval base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and in the east by the facilities in Aruba and Curacao, and Colombia.

Remember that in the islands under Dutch control, the Pentagon maintains the constant presence of 300 men with combat capability, as well as five F-15 or F-16 planes, three reconnaissance aircrafts, a flying radar Awac type with continental scope, and maritime control devices. Colombia has allowed itself

to be turned into a giant U.S. aircraft carrier after the military agreement which betrays any spirit of peaceful Latin American coexistence, and places loaded missiles aiming at its neighbors, including Venezuela, Ecuador, Paraguay, Bolivia, Brazil and Nicaragua.

To all this armed capacity, the Pentagon has added four facilities in Panama, a radar station in Costa Rica, a military base in Soto Cano or Palmerola, Honduras, another military base in Ilopango, El Salvador, and the ones in Puerto Rico.

If we imagine the Caribbean as a huge diamond, we realize that it is full of U.S. troops from north to south and from east to west. This presence is not in for nothing, it is a real threat to all our peoples, particularly to those where the struggle for freedom is so advanced.

The United States is a genetically aggressive and expansionist nation. This isn't anything new for us. It was predicted by our founding fathers who wisely warned us about the need of uniting together, of standing our ground and not to give in to the enormous danger this military power represents for our life and our dignity. □

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Presidente Morales pide a Piñera hablar del mar para Bolivia



El presidente de Bolivia Evo Morales saluda durante su posesión de mando, el viernes 22 de enero del 2010 en La Paz. (AP foto/Dado Galdieri)

Altura de La Paz afecta a Chávez

LA PAZ (AP) - La altura de la capital boliviana afectó al presidente Hugo Chávez, quien no pudo asistir a un almuerzo con su colega boliviano Evo Morales, quien el viernes juramentó para su segundo mandato, informó el canciller David Choquehuanca.

“El presidente Chávez se ha sentido mal y por eso se trasladó a su hotel a descansar... seguramente porque le afectó la altura”, dijo Choquehuanca en conferencia de prensa.

El mandatario venezolano llegó la madrugada del viernes a La Paz para acompañar a Morales en el acto de juramentación para sus nuevos cinco años de gobierno. Chávez observó el acto desde su asiento y, según medios locales, fue donde comenzó a sentirse mal aunque no abandonó el lugar hasta que el gobernante boliviano finalizó su discurso.

Choquehuanca dijo que es normal que la altura afecte a personas que vienen de lugares a nivel del mar, debido a que La Paz está situada a unos 3.600 metros sobre el nivel del mar.

En el saludo protocolar, Morales obsequió a sus invitados un afiche con una foto suya del jueves del momento en que fue ungido guía espiritual, en un simbólico ritual andino celebrado en un templo preincaico cercano a la capital. □

LA PAZ (AP) - El presidente de Bolivia Evo Morales pidió al futuro mandatario de Chile, Sebastián Piñera, respetar la agenda de 13 puntos que acordaron los dos países y que incluye la demanda boliviana de una salida al mar.

“Queremos continuar las relaciones de respeto mutuo, pero relaciones de pueblo a pueblo. Saludamos la democracia en Chile, pero también queremos que se respete la agenda de 13 puntos para seguir discutiendo el asunto del mar”, dijo el viernes en su discurso de posesión de su segundo mandato hasta el 2015.

Destacó las relaciones que su gobierno avanzó sobre todo con la presidenta Michelle Bachelet quien estuvo presente en la ceremonia y fue aplaudida por los legisladores e invitados.

Poco antes la mandataria chilena casi en los mismos términos dijo que “lo que tiene que hacer cualquier Gobierno en Chile es seguir profundizando todos los puntos de trabajo en

una agenda que ha sido concordada en común para ir siempre profundizando las relaciones con la hermana república de Bolivia”.

Bachelet hizo sus declaraciones tras donar a nombre de su gobierno equipos al Hospital del Niño en La Paz poco antes de asistir a la ceremonia de investidura. Ella regresó a Santiago por razones de agenda luego de la ceremonia de investidura sin asistir al almuerzo ofrecido por Morales.

Durante la campaña electoral, Piñera descartó discutir con el gobierno boliviano la posibilidad de ceder territorio de su país. Bolivia reclama a Chile una salida propia al Pacífico en compensación al litoral que perdió en la guerra que enfrentaron ambos países entre 1879 y 1883.

Aunque Bolivia y Chile no mantienen relaciones a nivel de embajadores, los acercamientos tuvieron notables avances en los pasados cuatro años. □

Uribe favorece pronto tratado con Panamá

PANAMA (AP) - El presidente colombiano Alvaro Uribe expresó que su gobierno tiene toda la intención de alcanzar cuanto antes un tratado de libre comercio con Panamá al visitar el viernes este país para participar en un encuentro del Consejo Empresarial de América Latina, en el que coincidió con su colega panameño Ricardo Martinelli.

“Hemos hecho unos tratados bien importantes con muchos países y tenemos todo el entusiasmo de hacer en pocas semanas, como lo exige el dinamismo del presidente Martinelli, el tratado con Panamá”, dijo Uribe al disertar en un evento del Consejo.

Señaló que ese acuerdo “debe

ser integral, de libre comercio, de promoción y seguridad recíproca de inversiones”.

En las últimas semanas ambos países vecinos han colocado como prioridad en su agenda la cristalización de un tratado que actualice viejos convenios de intercambio, con el fin de dinamizar el comercio bilateral que en 2008 alcanzó 285 millones de dólares. Se estima que en los últimos años la inversión colombiana en Panamá superó los 1.700 millones de dólares.

Uribe reiteró el interés de su país por la apertura del llamado “tapón del Darién”, que corta la carretera Panamericana a través de una vasta zona selvática en la frontera sur.

Aunque Martinelli consideró que este tema debe evaluarse bien porque tiene repercusiones en el medio ambiente, no se ahorró halagos para Uribe, de quien dijo fue la figura que lo inspiró a lanzarse a la política.

“No hay muchos Uribe en América Latina”, manifestó el gobernante panameño. “El presidente Uribe llegó a cambiar Colombia, llegó a poner orden, a que en Colombia se respete la democracia y haya seguridad”, agregó. Tras el evento, ambos líderes derechistas almorcizaron y luego Uribe participó de un conversatorio con hombres de negocios colombianos y panameños. □

Honduras: Informan que Zelaya se radicará en México

TEGUCIGALPA (AP) - El derrocado presidente Manuel Zelaya, que desde hace cuatro meses está refugiado en la embajada brasileña de Honduras, viajará el 27 de enero a República Dominicana y despuése establecerá su residencia temporal en México. "Zelaya permanecerá poco tiempo en Santo Domingo", dijo César Ham, uno de sus seguidores y ex candidato presidencial del izquierdista Partido Unificación Democrática. "Proyecta quedarse por algún tiempo en la ciudad de México". Ham firmó el miércoles como testigo de honor en Santo Domingo el acuerdo entre el presidente electo hondureño Porfirio Lobo, que asumirá en seis días, y el mandatario dominicana Leonel Fernández para otorgar un salvoconducto para que Zelaya viaje el 27 de enero a



Foto de archivo del depuesto presidente de Honduras Manuel. REUTERS/Stringer

la nación caribeña. Ham dijo en entrevista publicada el viernes por el diario Tiempo que la ausencia de Zelaya "será temporal porque él pretende regresar a Honduras". Fue derrocado por un golpe militar el 28 de junio de 2009. El asesor legal del ex mandatario, Rasel Tomé, dijo a la AP que Zelaya tiene previsto salir de la sede diplomática para irse a la República Dominicana "si se dan las condiciones necesarias para ello". No especificó cuáles son ni qué hará si no se registran. Tomé también se encuentra en la embajada brasileña. Para el fiscal general Luis Rubí, el salvoconducto no librará a Zelaya de las responsabilidades penales por las acusaciones de traición a la patria, abuso de autoridad, atentar contra la forma democrática de gobierno y usurpar funciones públicas. □

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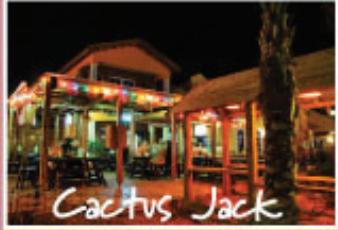


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